

By Sir James Stewart

CONSIDERATION

ON THE

INTEREST OF THE COUNTY

OF ⁴²

LANARK:

IN RELATION TO

- I. AGRICULTURE;
- II. The PRICES of SUBSISTENCE;
- III. The MAINTENANCE of the POOR;
- IV. The WAGES of SERVANTS, LABOURERS, and MANUFACTURERS;
- V. The CONNEXION, and COMMON INTEREST

- of the LAND and TRADE;
- VI. The CONSEQUENCES of the NEW CANAL;
- VII. The PRESENT STATE of LAND-CARRIAGE, and of PUBLIC ROADS;
- VIII. And to the POLICY and PRACTICE observed in MARKETS.

BY

ROBERT FRAME, WRITER in DALSERF.

" But there is in this Art, (POLITICS) a Sphere for lower Capacities to move
" in, who can presume no further than to find out, and prepare Materials, to
" be made use of by Able Hands, and who thinks it Profit enough to them,
" if they can make Tools for Skillful Artificers to work withal: and of this
" Rank is the Writer of this Paper."

*Davenant's first Discourse on the Public Revenue, and on the
Trade of England.*

G L A S G O W:

Printed for the Author, by ROBERT DUNCAN Bookseller, and
sold by him and the other Booksellers there; by LAUCHLIN
HUNTER Edinburgh, WILLIAM AITKEN Lanark, and at the
Post-office Hamilton. M, DCC, LXIX.

Vet. A5

e.

4893

Bought from A. M. Fizzell 9/10/54.

Advertised in Glasgow Journal
5 January 1769
p. 3, col. 4.



P7 167
AH 109ms

TO THE
LANDED AND TRADING INTEREST
OF THE
COUNTY OF LANARK;
AND
TO THEIR PATRONAGE AND PROTECTION:
THE FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS
ARE MOST
RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY

Their most Obedient,

and most Humble Servant,

ROBERT FRAME.

LANDS AND TRADING INTEREST

OF THE

COUNTY OF LANCASHIRE

AND

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORDS OF THE TRUST

THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS

ARE HEREBY

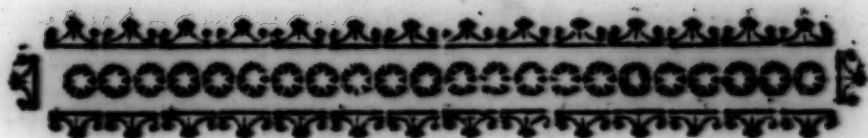
DECLARED AND ENFORCED

BY

THE SHERIFF OF THE COUNTY

OF LANCASHIRE

JOHN T. LANE



CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE

INTEREST OF THE COUNTY

OF

L A N A R K, &c.

A PERSON, who by a particular turn of mind is led into speculations which relate to the policy of nations, will find a remarkable difference, between the chain of those, which have for their object, a people living in one uniform and long established set of manners, and another, which is changing either for the better or for the worse.

IN the first, he will have little more to do, than to investigate into matters of fact, and to reduce to

A

principles, such appearances as are familiar to every one.

IN the second, he must employ more ingenuity; because, when the effects of any change are not pointed out by long experience, he must have recourse to conjecture, in order to form a tolerable guess concerning their future consequences.

THE County which is the object of these considerations, may (as I apprehend it) very properly be ranked in the last mentioned situation. Glasgow the capital, for wealth and consideration, has set, in a great measure, an example to all the towns of Scotland, in the advancement of Trade and Manufactures. The Landed Interest has had, I believe till of late, the misfortune to sit among her sister counties, on the lowest bench in the school of Agriculture.

THE Trade of Glasgow has augmented the number of her inhabitants. These now call for more Subsistence than the County can supply: so the Landed Interest of Clydesdale, looks like the indigent parent, of an industrious son, who has become independant of him, from the time he has been forced to provide for himself.

MATTERS are now upon the point of undergoing a total change. A spirit of improvement is springing up in every quarter of the County. The high

Prices of Subsistence, owing, of late years, to the deficiency of the County supply, and the difficulties Glasgow has found in having its wants elsewhere supplied, with certainty and regularity, have excited, on one hand, a taste for Agriculture among the farmers; while on the other, the citizens by means of a navigable Canal between the Forth and Clyde, have been drove to the necessity of looking for a more certain supply from without.

THIS spirit of improvement, however, has been for some time advancing by progressive steps.

THE high demand from the Glasgow market was certainly the first inducement to undertake the improvement of the County lands.

FOR this purpose we have been obliged to inclose and lead manure, lime especially, which has greatly augmented the demand for day Labourers; the consequence of which has been, a rise in the Price of daily labour, and in the Wages of country servants.

THE consequence of all has been a very considerable rise in the rents of lands. And as the high Price of grain on the one hand, has animated the frozen inhabitants of the country; so on the other, it has excited the jealousy of those in the city; who conclude, that since high Prices are very advantageous to the Landed Interest, they must be hurtful to

Trade; but it being a question of great importance, whether this conclusion be well or ill founded, it shall be examined with candour and with attention.

FROM this supposed opposition of interests, or indeed partly perhaps from necessity, the scheme of a Canal has owed its existence; and as so great a change in the mode of transporting Subsistence to Glasgow (by water in place of Land Carriage,) cannot fail to affect, in some degree, the Interest of the Land; so the consequence of the change must be diligently enquired into.

FOR this purpose it will be necessary to examine,
1mo. The present state of the Roads of this County:
2do. The expence of transporting to market, both in summer and in winter, what the County can supply:
3tia. To examine the Policy and Practice established in collecting and bringing to the several country markets, that portion of every crop which the County can furnish, to Glasgow: And in the last place, To make what observations may appear reasonable for correcting every abuse in this quarter.

IT is not my intention to examine each of these circumstances separately by itself. Several of them are so connected together, as to form but one subject. I have begun by enumerating them, in order only to suggest to the reader, the change of our situation; and to point out how naturally one alte-

ration brings on another, as in a chain, insensibly altering the whole system of the sentiments and employment of the greatest part of the inhabitants.

CONSTANT experience has taught us, that every considerable alteration of our circumstances, requires a suitable change in our conduct in life; which if we neglect, some inconvenience will follow. With time, indeed, our habits alter, tho' slowly; adapting themselves a-new to our respective situations; and the sharper fought among us, are those who first discover the consequences of the change, and first apply the remedy.

WHATEVER may be the advantages of this progress towards the improvement of our Lands, and the extension of our industry, it is very certain, that the lower classes of our people (whose knowledge is confined to their own past experience, and the use and wont of the spot they live upon only) stand much in need of the instruction and example of those, who can compare our present situation with that of other parts of the kingdom, where revolutions, new in this County, have long ago operated their full effects.

WHAT a change must it not be to the whole class of country Labourers, who used to live their year out, they did not well know how; to be re-

ceiving four shillings a week for their daily labour! Had you asked them formerly how they lived; they would have told you, ' By the providence of God.' The answer was good and proper. Their industry was then so miscellaneous; the employment they found was so precarious and uncertain, that they could not give it a name; now they know the fund they have to depend upon, and they know what they can afford to pay for their peck of meal.

UPON such revolutions in the manners of a people, it is the duty of every good citizen, to contribute his endeavours to point them out. He may even venture to foretell what consequences *may happen* on such occasions; and this without any fear of drawing shame upon himself, should he chance to be mistaken; because there is no man whatever, let his knowledge of facts, and accuracy of judgment be ever so great, who can pretend, with any degree of certainty, to foretell what *will* or *must happen* in cases so complicated, and combined with future contingencies.

IT is not many years, since a spirit of Agriculture began to diffuse itself over this County. Spots indeed had been improved by individuals; where an acre, not worth half a-crown formerly, is now set for Five Pound sterling a-year, for three crops: A few proprietors then improved for their pleasure;

the body of our farmers are now beginning to follow the example, and seem to wish they were able to improve for gain.

THE present management of one great estate, has undoubtedly set a good example; and I believe, it was a good deal owing to the former management of the same estate, that this County has hitherto made so little progress in Agriculture.

AN entailed property was considered to be an argument against laying out money upon the improvement of it. Raising the rents was thought to be robbing the present possessor of a Grassum *, in favour of a distant posterity. The consequence was, that the rents of this estate were very low, in proportion to all the neighbourhood; and the consequence of this again, was, that no landlord could raise his rents in proportion to the value of his lands, as long as so great a property was parcelled out at a cheaper rate.

No sooner did this estate fall into a new management, than the old system of Grassums was abolished. Lands were let at what they ought to be worth, when properly cultivated; not at what they really were worth, while they were not cul-

* *Grassum* in the Law of England.

tivated at all. A plan was laid down for inclosing with hedge and ditch many thousand acres. This provided a constant employment for all able men during the winter. Wages in that season used to be lower than in summer; at present they are greatly higher. The Labourers work piece work, and gain at least a shilling a-day in making of ditches, and yet a day Labourer is hired for seven pence, at every other occupation †.

No sooner was this large property begun to be let out upon the new plan, than every landlord found at his house abundance of people who came to solicit for farms. This was very new. Formerly the landlords were much taken up in looking out for tenants: the tables were turned. Whoever is the demander in any such bargain, must raise the

† This appears extraordinary; but the reason is plain. The ditchers cannot work in frost and snow; so the occupation is more precarious; and when they are made idle, they cannot immediately find another employment. The day Labourers, on the other hand, are mostly in the service of gentlemen, who employ them all the year round; but they have not in general, either the youth, strength, or dexterity of many of those who work by the piece. In a word, you will hardly find any able man, even in Winter, now unemployed; whereas not many years ago, you could have had upon a call, for a work of a day or more, a number of people engaged in no permanent branch of industry; and who, when dismissed from such jobs, made no other reflection, but on their own miserable condition.

former price. This most people know; but every one feels it to be true when he comes to make the trial. Lands have risen more over all the County, within these five years, than in any period of twenty; and from very little improvement of the soil I must confess: but, as I said before, they are now begun to be let at what they *ought to be* worth; not at what *they have been* worth to the former possessors; and, in all probability, they will rise upon the expiration of the new leases, more than ever they were wont to do formerly on such occasions.

I do not pretend to ascribe this sudden rise in the rents of lands, to the new administration only, of the estate above mentioned. Two other circumstances have favoured the landlords. *1mo.* The growth of the Trade of Glasgow, and the encrease of its wealth, industry, and inhabitants, has supported the prices of corn and cattle, for some years past, above the general average of Scotland; and I hope, for the Interest of the County, I have here under my consideration, that for several years at least, they will not much diminish. That in this County they will diminish in time, I both hope and expect; but that must come from the extension of Agriculture, not from importation. *2da.* The great and constant employment, at present, given to the lower class of our industrious inhabitants, (our cottars as they were called, our day Labourers

as we now call them) throws ready money into their hands, with which they go to market, and pay down. Formerly they took from landlords and farmers, upon the credit of their future services, the poor precarious Subsistence they enjoyed ; which by the good, was granted as an act of charity ; by the bad, as a most usurious and oppressive loan. This change manifests itself by the increase quantity of meal now bought up at country markets, and retailed to day Labourers and spinners by people well known in every parish.

THIS increase of consumption, has in a great measure banished misery from cottages and country villages ; it has supported the Prices of Grain ; and has relieved the land from the burden of maintaining those who had no employment. But on the other hand, it has prevented the augmentation of what the city of Glasgow might reasonably have expected from the County, in consequence of the late improvements.

THE mouth of the ox which thresheth out the corn must not be muzzled ; just so the industrious Labourer in the country must always be the first to be fed. The demand however of the great market will regulate the Price he must pay for his Subsistence ; and his industry will put the Price into his hand.

THIS leads me next to examine the principles which influence the Prices of Subsistence, from which we shall discover a rule, for judging when they are too high, and when too low, consistently with the interest of all the industrious classes of a people.

THE Prices of Subsistence are made to fluctuate in markets, by the same principle which regulates the Prices of all commodities; viz. the proportion between the demand, and the supply; with this characterizing difference as to Subsistence, which is peculiar to countries of industry; viz. *That the Price of it, never can rise above the extent of the faculties of the most numerous class of those who consume the provision* †.

To render this proposition more clear and intelligible. Let me suppose the most numerous class of those who consume oat-meal in this County, to be the day Labourers, gaining throughout the year about Three Shillings and Six Pence per week. Were, I say, the quantity of oat-meal *necessary* for their nourishment during one week, to rise above Three Shillings and Six Pence, they could not buy it: and as we suppose that quantity to be *necessary*, less could not serve. They would then starve; and if their demand was withdrawn from the market,

B 2

† Stuart's *Pol. OEcon.* Vol. 1st, pages 397 and 398.

the quantity which formerly was too small for the whole inhabitants, would greatly exceed the demand of the survivors, consequently the Price would fall.

ALTHOUGH, in this country, matters never come to the extremity of starving; still the same principle is found to operate in a less degree. The high Price, if it does not quite cut off the demand of the lowest class, reduces it, however, to narrower limits. They diminish their consumption, and are worse fed; they substitute other species of coarser fare to meal; and if even this also shall come to fail them, they become indigent, and are supported by the charity of others.

THIS forms the lowest class of every people; which I do not include in what I call the mass of the industrious. That our poor still may contribute, in part, towards their own Subsistence, I do not deny; were it not so, they would be greatly more burthensome than they are. The state of our poor shall be considered by itself.

FROM this additional encouragement given to day Labourers, we now find less misery among the common people of this County, when oat-meal is at One Shilling per peck, than at former times, when it sold for Six Pence; because it will be allowed, that the generality of our Labourers, can now more

certainly reckon upon Three Shillings and Six Pence per week, throughout the year, than formerly they could reckon upon Two Shillings; and we are going upon the supposition, that the class of Labourers, is the lowest among healthy and industrious people.

IN inquiries of this sort, every circumstance possible should be taken in.

LET us suppose the lowest wages of a day Labourer to amount, through the year, to about Nine Pound Sterling, or Three Shillings and Six Pence per week: and let us allow this for the maintenance alone of his family. He must also gain what is necessary for his fire, clothes, and house rent. The first is a mere trifle; from the great abundance of fuel in most places of the County. In order to provide for the pure necessary for his living, he ought to have one half rood of ground, well prepared and manured, for producing abundance of Greens for his pot, and a few Potatoes; which two articles occasion a great saving on the oat-meal in the autumn and winter. For the rent of his house and garden let us suppose Thirteen Shillings and Four Pence. He should also have a Cow which may be grazed on the adjacent farms. The more he pays for her grass, the better for him. He will have more profit in paying Twenty or Thirty Shillings for a summer's grass, upon a good pasture, than in having it for nothing on a bare field. It is to be observed, that no sweet milk is con-

sumed, in the general, by our day Labourers; and the butter of a tolerable Cow will amount to five stone Scots, or about one hundred weight English per *annum*; which, were it properly and cleanly made up, will give at least Two Pound sterling. Here then should be the fund for paying the house rent and the grafs for the Cow: and it will prove something more than sufficient for both; what is over, joined with the wife's spinning, must provide for firing, clothes, and every other want. However poor this life may appear to those who do not enter into such disquisitions, such however in fact it is with us: and in this way can our day Labourers live, when oat-meal is at One Shilling per peck, which for three years past it has been; and, I say, without any symptoms of misery, in the houses of those, whose gains and method of life are as I have been describing. This is the condition of those, who enjoy a pure physical necessary, without any superfluity; and when such people turn old, it is hardly possible for them to subsist without some assistance either from charity, or from their children: one or other of which; seldom fails them. But I must observe, that I have been describing the life of the very poorest among our day Labourers. Many of them make better wages; and young people, while in the service of farmers, with a frugal disposition, may form a little stock to enable them to marry. Marriages contracted between country people without any stock at all, are not now (I believe) so common as formerly; for which

reason, the number of the indigent is daily diminishing. The call likewise for Manufacturers of all kinds, provides an outlet for the children, and keeps up the wages of country Servants, at a due proportion with day Labourers.

THE low rate of able Servants in the country, is, at present, about Four Pounds a-year. If meal be reckoned at One Shilling per peck, their food will cost the master about Five Pounds more: together, Nine Pounds: and if many Servants get Five, or even Six Pounds yearly wages, some Labourers make Four, or even Five Shillings a-week, which brings them to a par. Thus we see, that the rise of Servants wages, so much complained of, is ill grounded; because still they are not above the condition of a day Labourer: the only difference is, that the expence of the first is less; because commonly they are unmarried. So the money they receive, is either frugally laid up, and becomes a fund for marriage; or it is spent in clothes, and ornaments, to the encouragement of our Manufactures. Now, were the gains of this lowest class to be reduced, the Price of Subsistence would fall in proportion.

IT must here be observed, that drunkenness and debauchery prevail very little with us, in the country; and were none allowed to sell beer and spirituous liquors, but such as take out licences according to law, they would still prevail less than they do.

For which reason, gentlemen ought to take care that none but qualified persons be suffered to keep such houses upon their estates; and if their own representations be not sufficient to stop the abuse, they should avail themselves of the authority of law.

THE women also form a considerable class, and many subsist with great ease by spinning. Their lowest gains amount from Twenty Pence to Two Shillings per week. With this they are clothed, and nourished; and many of them, while young and unmarried, we see decently ornamented with little superfluities of dress; which they hold out, I suppose as a fund at their disposal, for the maintenance of children, in case any young fellow should wish to take them for a wife. Were it not, therefore, for the use of ribbands, and such little ornaments now in fashion, a country lad could form no judgment of the industry and frugality of the young women of the parish. I call the buying such superfluities as ribbands, the greatest proof of frugality; because every unnecessary expence must be cut off, before they can purchase an ornament, which from the wedding-day, the husband expunges out of the list of his wife's expences; as she had formerly expunged all other superfluities, in order to acquire, what now she finds to be superfluous. Thus all that possibly can be spared, is provided for the Subsistence of the children during their infancy.

LET this suffice concerning the proportion between the price of country labour, and the rate of provisions; as they have respectively stood for some years past.

I must next examine the question in a more comprehensive view, taking the whole nation together; and this in order to examine the propriety of our present policy in throwing open our ports to importation, in order to reduce the Price of Subsistence, so soon as it is *supposed* to rise above the faculties of the lowest classes of our industrious.

I have said already, *That in a country of industry, prices can never rise above the faculties of the numerous classes of those who go to market:* and from all I have seen of late in this country, I am still more confirmed in this opinion. However, as this doctrine is not commonly admitted, I shall now examine the propriety of bringing prices down by importation; and then point out another expedient, which might perhaps, answer the end equally well, and be productive of many fewer inconveniencies.

WHEN it becomes necessary, or even convenient to assist the lowest classes of our Manufacturers and day Labourers, in years of high prices, I think a much better expedient may be devised than that of opening our ports to importation; and for the

better communicating my idea upon this point, I shall begin by making a distinction between what I call a year of scarcity, and a year of high prices only.

By a year of scarcity, I understand an actual deficiency of the crop, which nothing but importation can supply. By a year of high prices, I suppose the crop to be *scrimply* sufficient; and those only to suffer whose faculties can hardly reach the rate of the market for their *full* Subsistence.

In the first case, we find people actually starving for hunger; in the second, the distress goes no further, than to bear very hard upon the lowest classes, when their gains are but *scrimply* sufficient to provide for all their wants.

THE first question, then, comes to be, How do you ascertain the distinction which you have made between *scarcity* and *high prices*?

My answer is, That it is to be ascertained from an examination into matters of fact only, relatively to the state of importations in times past, and upon such occasions, as the ports have been opened with a view to supply the actual deficiency of a bad crop. If upon such occasions, the quantity imported, shall be found to have amounted to one *twentieth*, or even to one *thirtieth* of the ordinary consumption of

the inhabitants, then I should allow such a year to have been a year of scarcity; but if the importation shall be found not to exceed one *eightieth* of their consumption, then I can only suppose it to be a year of high prices, which by a proper policy in our markets, and by a granary plan, well contrived, may keep prices in a due proportion to the real quantity of grain in the country *.

C 2

* Our registers of the exportation and importation of grain for Scotland, are not regularly preserved; for which reason, no estimate can be formed concerning the short-coming of our crops.

But if we admit, that there is any thing near the same proportion between *our* crop and *our* consumption, with what it is known to be in England, where registers are exactly kept; then, I say, that since the beginning of this century, there never was a deficiency supplied by importation, of one *eightieth* part of their ordinary consumption.

The greatest importation in one year was in 1757, when there was imported into England,

	Quarters.
Of Barley, — — — — —	5,781
Of Oats, — — — — —	7,460
Of Oat-Meal, — — — — —	298
Of Rye, — — — — —	7,861
Of Wheat, — — — — —	130,343

In all †, 151,743

Now the estimate put upon the annual consumption of the inhabitants of England, exceeds upon the average, Thirteen Millions and one half of quarters of all sorts of grain ‡. So this extraordi-

† Treats of Corn Trade, and Corn Laws, 2d edit. p. 124.

‡ Ditto p. p. 144, 145.

I agree however, notwithstanding what I have said, that, at a particular time, as matters stand in England, tho' there be no actual scarcity, yet if the defect of our policy occasion a desertion of markets, and an excessive rise of prices, there may be no other method left, but that of opening the ports.

nary importation, does not amount to one *eighty ninth* of the whole, and the average of importation is not above $\frac{1}{11}$. From which I must conclude, that importation has been at no time necessary since the beginning of this century. What it may prove to have been of late, we shall soon be informed of. I further conclude, That if the Prices of Subsistence do, in fact, rise to an unreasonable height; the vice lies in the bad policy of the markets, and not in the real deficiency of the crops; and ought not to be remedied by importations which throw the whole class of farmers into great distress; but by a better management of what is found to grow even in the worst years.

I purposely avoid giving my sentiments as to a proper plan for this purpose; because the nation is not disposed to relish any scheme for making of granaries, were they even confined to the poor quantity of about 200,000 quarters of Wheat and Rye for England, which would prove an effectual remedy for all scarcity hitherto felt in that part of the kingdom. What might be necessary for Scotland, I cannot guess at, until the state of our importations be better known. This part of the kingdom, is not as yet, perhaps, in a situation to profit by a granary; because it is not impossible, that, at present, the average of our consumption, may even exceed that of our growth exclusive of the seed; in which case, no granary can be of service to us: and if that be so, what a happy thing it is for Scotland to have so ready, and so plentiful a market as that of England to have recourse to!

BUT then, I say, it is a violent remedy, which will be attended with very bad consequences, unless there be a power constantly at hand in every port, to put a stop to importation at the proper time. And even this corrective itself, is also a violent remedy; which will be attended with very bad consequences to the Trading Interest, who are supplying the deficiency of our crop in such years. In a word, the plan of bringing down the Price of Subsistence *universally*, when our lowest classes *only* are in distress, and that by *importation*, is an expedient to be had recourse to in the most urgent necessity only: and at every other time, it is far better to contrive an expedient for enabling the lowest classes to buy dear, than to bring down the national price to *their* standard, to the detriment of tillage, and to the profit of many classes whose necessities do not call for any such relief. This expedient comes now to be explained.

WILL it not be allowed, that calculation may be made of the due proportion between the Price of the lowest denomination of day Labour, and the highest Price of Subsistence consistent therewith?

WHEN this proportion is determined, let me suppose that Subsistence is found to be too dear in proportion to their faculties; altho' it be as low as possible for the encouragement of Agriculture,

THIS forms a political dilemma. *Viz.* If we support the Price of Subsistence, we hurt the lowest classes of our industrious: on the other hand, if we reduce it, we hurt the farmers; who are those who feed the whole nation.

THE solution of this dilemma seems to resolve in two expedients: the first is the more familiar, *viz.* to open the ports for the importation of Subsistence, and to shut them against all exportation of it. The farmers, *many suppose*, will always live, while they have the whole national Subsistence among their hands. The loss therefore if any be, appears to them to fall upon the landlords, who will lose part of their rents in such years, and they are the class who are best able to bear it.

THE second expedient is this: To raise the Wages of the lowest class of the industrious, so as to bring them upon a level with that price of provisions, which is the most advantageous for Agriculture.

I shall now examine the inconveniences attending the one and the other, as both are violent remedies; that is to say, remedies which must be used at the expence of disturbing the harmony and common course of things.

As to the first; some of the inconveniencies to Agriculture have been already mentioned; but now I

must add, That the loss by the reduction of prices, will not fall upon the high class of landlords, until their tenants are totally ruined: for while they have one shilling, they must pay their rents. Besides, the reduction of prices by importation is quite delusive; it gluts a particular market, as long as it lasts, and forces the farmers, who are in the greatest necessity, to sell for less than they can afford; but, with us, it never can have the effects of a plentiful year, which enriches the farmer while it brings prices to a lower standard universally; because, as has been already observed, the proportion between the greatest importation ever known, and the ordinary consumption, is a mere trifle.

As a proof of this, let me take notice of what was under our eye in the Glasgow market, April 1768. The ports were then open to importation. Irish meal was brought in, and sold at Nine pence per peck, in the same market where our country meal sold for a Shilling. From this I conclude, that the Irish meal must have been proportionally of a worse quality. But it was Subsistence in the market, and so it was bought. The term of Whitsunday was drawing near; the farmers were obliged to sell to pay their rents; the market was full; prices fell; not in proportion to *the general plenty of the year*, but to *that in the market*. And because wheat in England was still dear, importation went on, and the markets of Glasgow continued to be supplied with oat-meal, of

of the growth of Ireland: while a great part of our last year's crop is still undisposed of. This distress upon Agriculture, is however, peculiar to Scotland, and is not attended to by our English brethren. Keeping the ports open has been no hurt to them, since wheat this year has been as dear all over Europe, as in England. But had parliament effectually reduced the Prices of Subsistence in England, by giving a premium of Ten Shillings per quarter on all wheat imported, we should then have seen their farmers in as great a distress as our own: since Ten Shillings per quarter of wheat, is not more than the difference between the value of oat-meal with us, and what it has sold for of late in the Irish market.

THE loss to farmers, by sudden revolutions in the price of markets, is not the only inconvenience attending this expedient. The loss to Trade is very great. A sudden stop to exportation in England, not long ago, made this severely felt; and occasioned very loud complaints. The sudden fall by importation, occasions also a great distress upon the inland Trade in grain. Sudden and unforeseen revolutions in Trade, are constantly detrimental in the general, and ought, as much as possible, to be avoided. But as a further examination of this particular branch of our Policy, would lead me higher than I incline to stretch, I shall break it off, and proceed to the inconveniences attending the second expedient; which is, By law to appoint the daily Wages of the lowest

class of the industrious, to be raised in proportion to the market Price of Subsistence.

THE principal inconvenience here is, that it offers no relief to any industrious person, who does not work for daily Wages: upon which I must observe, That such as work on their own account, or by the piece, are commonly, I may say generally, in a higher class than those who work for daily hire; and as the Wages of the lowest only, are supposed to be raised in proportion to the market Price of Subsistence, those of the higher classes, may then be supposed sufficiently able to subsist.

THOSE who are really hurt by the high Price of Subsistence, are the necessitous, who live upon charity. These are generally called *the poor*, and indeed that term ought to be appropriated to this lowest class of the people only. When under the denomination of *poor*, our political writers include *the poor* Householder, *the poor* Labourer, *the poor* Tradesmen and Manufacturer, the poor in short who are not rich: and when in using the terms of *dear Subsistence*, and *high Prices*, they do not let us know, what is the reasonable Price of each article of Subsistence, which they call dear; or what are the faculties of the *poor* who are to consume them; the whole question remains a mystery: and we are told in the news papers and pamphlets, which we

see now and then, that the people of Great Britain are starving; because the public is much in debt; because many individuals are very rich; because money is cheap, and therefore Subsistence is dear; but that our parliament can put all to rights if they seriously incline.

By so vague and unsatisfactory a way of treating this important branch of our policy, the whole is left indeterminate; and while we are wishing to relieve *the poor*, we are neither informed who are the objects of our care, or what degree of relief we can bestow on them.

HAVING confined the term of *poor* to the indigent only (who live by charity, forming a class still lower than any of the industrious) we must now make some observations on the present state of them with us.

It may be said, for the honour of this County, that however chargeable our poor may be to us, they are still no public nuisance, as they would be, were they going about idle, as they are seen in many places. They remain at home, doing what they can, to provide for their maintenance. The funds which our fathers set a-part for their support, added to the weekly contributions on Sunday, prove generally sufficient to make up the deficiency of their own labour; and when even these two sup-

plies prove less than what is required, the proprietors of Lands generously submit to a stint upon the parish for their relief.

FROM this we may gather, how necessary a thing it is, that men of property and parts, as well from a principle of Interest, as of religion, should examine into the state of the poor.

TIMELY endeavours should be used to prevent people from falling into absolute poverty, when in the decline of life. No duty of a pastor, is more to be recommended, than that of informing himself of the methods fallen upon by inventive indigence, to support life at the cheapest rate; and to turn the little industry which is compatible with that situation, to the best account. When he has acquired a perfect knowledge of the different degrees of indigence in the parish; and when he has communicated his observations, by way of instruction, in the house of every poor person, he may then have an opportunity of judging of their several dispositions, by their endeavours to improve their poor situation; and he may greatly improve the poor's fund by a prudent distribution of it according to circumstances.

IT is a loss to society, to have too many retreats provided for idle, or even indigent people. Mankind, when void of ambition, are very apt to be lazy;

and many, who if spurred on by necessity, might become useful to themselves, willingly sink into idleness, when they find an opportunity of indulging in an easier, tho' a poorer way of life, supported from the charity of others.

COTTAGES are the habitations of the indigent, as well as of day Labourers and country Mechanics. It ought to be an object of attention, peculiar to the landed men of this County, *1mo.* To have their cottages properly filled, either with Mechanics, or day Labourers: *2do.* To have the children of all such people early bred to industry; and *3tio.* To prevent the farmers (out of interested views of present advantage) from granting such retreats to idle people; a thing which frequently ends in fixing such inhabitants as a parish charge in time to come. What a scandalous thing it is, to see a gentleman drawing part of his rent from a poors box! And yet I know examples even of this. I do not pretend to correct general abuses; or even to lay down a plan for it. I am satisfied to point out what is within the power of many to correct in part.

LET this suffice at present upon the propriety of importation, and the method of estimating the rate of prices, by the extent of the faculties of those who must go to market. I must next consider the present state of our Agriculture, and mention the steps

we are taking for improving the soil, in augmenting its productions.

THOSE who know the County of Lanark, are not strangers to the terms of *Croft* and *Field-land*. Those who are unacquainted with it, laugh heartily at our terms; for according to them, there should be no such distinction. Could the changing our terms, alter the matter of fact, it would be a happy circumstance.

BY *Croft* we mean, such lands as have been immemorially dunged every third or fourth year; by which management of our deep clay soil, it has been entirely changed into a fine rich black loam.

BY *Out-field*, we mean such lands as have been alternately plowed and rested; also immemorially; without receiving either fallow or manure. These last remain a stiff clay, destitute in a great measure of the food fit for plants. Of these last, the proportion of quantity to the *Croft* is in most farms as Three, Four, or sometimes Five to One.

SUCH parts of the *Out-field* as are untilled produce a kind of sward, which in no other place but here, would be called pasture, even for sheep. Upon the stubbles of our best lands, as well as on these extended fields, the whole miserable starved animals of our farmers, wander about from harvest to seed-

time, poaching the surface with their feet. In every impression made by the hoof, the water stands, as in a silver cup; chilling the ground, until it is exhaled by the sun or winds: it is then baked into a brick, and so remains during the summer. In a wet year, indeed, our clay, from it's admirable quality, falling with alternate showers and warm days, moulders down around the brims of our water cups, and there produces a better grass.

THOSE who explode our terms of *Croft* and *Field* land, mean no more, than that we ought not to continue in the present practise, of laying all our manure on the Croft, and neglecting the Out-field: in which they are certainly in the right. If this be not done, it is impossible that the new rents can ever be paid; because it is upon this supposition alone, that the country can be improved.

WE have now the satisfaction to see the whole of our farmers subscribing to the truth of this doctrine; and within these few years, we hardly find an example of any one, who without lime, fallow, or manure, pretend, to plow such fields. We see them also sowing grass-seeds on their Croft-lands, from which they reap handsome crops of hay and grass-seeds; a thing unknown in former times. Now were it not for the multiplication of what are called useless horses; what vent could they find for their hay? Were it not for the spirit of inclosing, and laying

down fields into grass, what vent for rye-grass-seeds? Were it not for the high price of oats and oat-meal; how could farmers, with small stocks, pretend to be at the expence of improving these barren fields, and leaving in grass that part of their farm, which they used to reckon upon for the payment of their rents, and for their own poor Subsistence?

LET the markets fall, let oat-meal return to Eight or Ten Shillings per Boll; we shall soon see an end of the new system: our tenants will be ruined; and an entire stop will be put to all improvement, except by those who can lie out of their money, until the effects of it come in, to reimburse the first expence.

IT was for this reason only, I said before, that I hoped to see the markets continue high for some years longer; until the product of the lands, bearing a greater proportion than hitherto, to the Subsistence of the country inhabitants, the demand of Glasgow might be better supplied; and consequently prices might diminish.

WHAT a difference shall we then find in the situation of all the classes of our people. The lowest better fed; because more dexterous and better employed. The farmers with an additional increase upon their lands; to indemnify them for the lowness of the price: whereas now, by the importation of

Subsistence, they see the markets brought down without any addition to their barn-yard ; and find that while they are working for the public, as well as for themselves, in improving a barren soil ; they are obliged to sell their Boll, at the price they might reasonably expect, after the improvement has been carried to perfection, and when the Lands have been doubled in their annual product.

It is become so popular a topic, to cry out against the high Price of Subsistence, that a man hardly dares to speak common sense against it. The case is different with respect to the price of Manufactures.

WHEN there was lately a proposal, to allow the importation of French lawn and cambrics, what a cry did it not justly raise in this County? We all, then, foresaw the ruin of our infant Manufactures established at Paisley.

WILL not Paisley, in a few years, be able to dispute the market with any people in Europe? Is not the case quite the same as to Subsistence at a time when our *Agriculture* is in its infancy?

Is not the raising of grain a Manufacture, to all intents and purposes, as well as weaving? If it be not, I should be glad to be informed of the principle upon which the difference is founded.

I understand very well, the great advantages in having Subsistence, at all times cheaper at home than in other countries, while the industrious classes, in the sale of their work, are disputing a preference at foreign markets: but I do not understand, why prices should be still lower than the poorest Manufacturer can afford to pay; especially in countries whose Manufactures are principally for home consumption, or for that of colonies; where the ports are shut against the importation of the like commodities from other countries with a view only, of affording reasonable profits at home upon an infant undertaking: and in no case which can be stated, do I see any advantage in bringing the Price of Subsistence so low, as to hurt that class who are providing it.

WHAT has been said naturally leads me to examine the opposition, commonly believed to subsist, between the Landed and the Trading Interest of this County.

PRIVATE Interest is the great spring of all actions in political life. Thus we see the several classes of every society, uniting in the common cause of their order; and, by their zeal and animosity, frequently creating a separate Interest from other classes, with whom they are closely bound by a common Interest, which they are then too apt to overlook.

THE two greatest classes in this kingdom in general, and in this County in particular, are the Landed and the Trading men. These are, alas! but too often found in opposition to each other; and this the more, that their Interests are commonly believed to be incompatible.

IT is thought, that the proprietors of Land, have a constant Interest in having the Prices of all Subsistence carried as high as possible, for the sake of raising their rents: and that the merchants are constantly interested in having the Prices of all Subsistence brought as low as possible, for the sake of lowering the price of all Manufactures.

I consider the *landlords*, and the *merchants*, as standing respectively at the head of their classes; and as regulating, or at least influencing the sentiments of those who compose them.

THOSE who go along with the landlords, and who are most closely bound to them by a common Interest, are the farmers alone, or those who provide the Subsistence for the whole community. Those who, with the merchants cry out for cheap Subsistence, are all the classes of Manufacturers, Mechanics, Householders, those who live upon annuities, salaries, and even the day Labourers, whose residence is in the country, and who live by the landlords and the farmers who give them employment.

It would ill become a person, who pretends to write with a view to promote the Interest of this County, to take part with either side in this question. My intention is to explain it as far as I can; that both parties may be enabled to discover the real and true state of it. If once they perceive, that their Interests are more closely united than they have been aware of; it will not require many exhortations to bring them nearer together.

I have mentioned before, the proportion between the price of oat-meal, and the gains of our country day Labourers, and have pointed out the propriety of preserving it at all times in a just ballance. The same principle will be found to operate with respect to all the classes subordinate to the Trading Interest. The Wages of the lowest class of Manufacturers ought never to fall below or ever rise above the same proportion.

THE first step therefore to be taken in going through this question, is to enquire what are the gains of those who are employed in the lowest services of the merchants; such as, in carrying burdens, ware-house work, labouring in sea-ports, clearing of ships, &c. where no peculiar dexterity is necessary. If upon examination, the Wages of such persons, be higher than Four Shillings per week; then we must conclude, that the prices compatible with

Agriculture, are not incompatible with Trade; for if the lowest class of those she employs, gain more than day Labourers; the higher class among them must be without the reach of want.

If it be said, that those who work at the services above mentioned, are not to be considered as the lowest class of the Trade: then let the very lowest class with respect to gains be substituted in their room; and let the enquiry be made with respect to them; taking along the state of their age, their health, their sex, their dexterity, &c. as was done before in considering the state of the country industrious, and if my information be good, as I believe it is, there is no class of Manufacturers who do not gain at least Three Shillings and Six-pence per week in Glasgow and Paisley.

I must next observe, That cheap Manufacturing is the life and support of *foreign* Trade only; because it is this, which gives a superiority in all markets, where the Manufactures of different nations are sold in competition with each other.

A second principle, as undeniable as the first, is, That the Wages of all Manufacturers, are regulated by the price which the goods they make up are found to give, when sold abroad in whole-sale, or when sold at home by those who retail to the consumer. In vain will merchants, or those who have the manage-

ment of great undertakings in the Manufacturing way, endeavour to reduce the price of Wages, in years of plenty, when Subsistence is cheap; as long as the market-price of the goods, can afford more than Subsistence to the private Manufacturer. In vain will the Manufacturer endeavour to obtain an augmentation of his Wages, in years of scarcity, when Subsistence is dear; while the price of goods, when brought to market, cannot admit of an augmentation on the price of Wages.

NOTHING is more advantageous to Trade than an uniformity in the Price of Subsistence at all times. This with time, will bring the Wages of the *lowest class* to a due proportion with the Price of Subsistence; and higher profits will be regulated by extraordinary dexterity only; still ultimately under the control of the market-Price of the goods, as has been said. But while the Price of Subsistence is in constant fluctuation, year, after year, the Manufacturers become impatient when their Wages cannot be raised; and they become idle when with the labour of four days, they can subsist a week.

DID the bounds I have prescribed to myself in these considerations, admit of illustrations, to prove, that the price of Wages among the Manufacturing classes, are not so much regulated by the Price of Subsistence, as by the rate of the market for the goods they make up; many could be found to make !

the proposition evident to every one: a hint I apprehend, will be sufficient to call the attention of our intelligent merchants of Glasgow, and to point out to them, that the Interest of their brethren of the Land, is more closely connected with their own, than perhaps they have been aware of. And that it is so, shall be made still more evident before I take my leave.

NOTHING is more hurtful to Trade, than transient years of extraordinary plenty, and low Prices of Subsistence. If Manufacturers do then continue diligent, the high profits upon their industry, engage them to a better way of living, and when high Prices of Subsistence return again, and that this additional case must be cut off, they become impatient, and complain as much as if they were deprived of their necessary. But in countries where industry is still in its infancy; it more frequently happens, that necessity alone forces people to labour; and then every hour over and above what is absolutely necessary for gaining a lively-hood, will be spent in idleness.

FROM these considerations, I conclude that it is the Interest of all merchants, that Subsistence should stand at least as high as is compatible with the gains of the lowest class of Manufacturers: and if this class be found to be upon a level with the country day Labourers, and Servants; then all jealousy of the Landed Interest will cease, because the Prices of Sub-

istence never *should*, or indeed, as I maintain, never *can* rise beyond the extent of the poor faculties of this numerous class whom they employ.

It may here be objected, That we learn from constant experience, that the lower classes of Manufacturers, not the country Labourers, are those who first are made to feel the distress of high Prices.

To which I make answer: That they are, indeed, first *heard* to complain; but I deny that they are those who *suffer* the first. They are assembled in bodies; they reside in considerable towns, where every individual whither he be in want or no, willingly joins them in the cry for cheap Subsistence. The cry of the poor starving day Labourer, cannot be heard, buried, as he is in his miserable cottage, and surrounded by those who have an immediate Interest in stopping his mouth.

THIS striking difference, between the distress of the day Labourers, and that of the lowest Manufacturing class, with respect to the advantage which the latter has in obtaining relief, by moving the pity of the public; should be carefully attended to by all governments. And as a proof that the case is as I have represented it; we find from a late publication *, that all riot and revolt on account of high

* The Six weeks Tour through part of England.

prices, has constantly broken out among the higher classes of the industrious, whose Wages far exceed what is found necessary by the lower. They do not cry for want; but because they wish to live at a cheaper rate than the farmers can supply them.

If still it be urged, That some Manufactures are of so low a value with us, that the hands employed in them, cannot make their bread even when Subsistence is at a reasonable standard. I answer, that such articles must either be for exportation to markets where we are undersold; or for home consumption, when the branch is overstocked. In the first case, the vice must be removed by bounties on the articles of exportation; and in the second, by a diminution of the hands employed in such a branch; but in neither, by reducing the Prices of Subsistence too low for the Interest of Agriculture, which alone employs more hands than all the Manufactures of the kingdom.

If the example of a neighbouring nation, can have weight in a question which we ought to resolve from our own reason and experience; I may here take notice of an observation I have heard from a person, who I apprehend to be well informed, *viz.* That till very lately, the favourite topic of policy in France, was to preserve the price of grain as low as possible. All exportation was forbid; even that from province to province; grain was a drug, Agri-

culture languished; the body of the people were idle and miserable; Manufactures, when set on foot, immediately fell into decay; except in the capital, and some few places, strongly supported by the weight of public money. It was a mystery, he said, to that people, how the high price of Wages in England; could be compatible with their Trade on the one hand, and with the rate of their corn on the other: because upon examination, they found that the price of wheat in England, was every whit as low as in France, after all their precautions; and that even large sums of money went to England for that commodity. They have now found, that Manufactures do not prosper from Cheap Subsistence; but from a brisk demand in the markets: and while the numerous classes of their own people continue to be wretchedly poor; they never can call for the goods wrought up by those, who, from the allure-ment of good Wages, are engaged to apply to work of ingenuity.

To conclude this part of my subject, I believe upon examination it will be found, that the class of day Labourers in this County is the lowest of any in it, the *poor* excepted. As long, therefore, as the price of Subsistence, does not exceed their faculties; and as long as they (notwithstanding of the many interruptions in their labour, proceeding from the weather;) can live and bring up their children with Three Shil-

lings and Six-pence, or Four Shillings per week, oat-meal being at One Shilling per peck in the Glasgow market, the Interests of Trade can suffer nothing; and the Interests of Agriculture will be abundantly provided for. And could a plan be devised, which would prevent oat-meal from rising above One Shilling, or falling below Ten-pence per peck at all times, (which is a variation however of Sixteen per Cent) it would be found to operate the most salutary effects upon the Interest of the two great classes which we have been considering. And who knows, but such a plan may be within the compass of execution, were this County truly united in their views of accomplishing a scheme, calculated for the general advantage: a thing, more to be wished for, perhaps, than reasonably to be expected.

I COME now to the subject of the New Canal; and shall endeavour to investigate some contingent consequences, which, following upon the execution of this great plan for national improvement, may affect, in different ways, the Landed and Trading Interests of the County of Lanark.

THE best way to discover the political consequences of any action, is to examine the motives which produced it.

THE execution of a Canal, at this time, for communicating by water carriage between the Forth and

Clyde, was undoubtedly owing to some eminent merchants of Glasgow, who for the advantage of their own commerce, proposed to make a navigation, tho' of smaller dimensions than those which have been since resolved on.

THE motives they had in view are very distinctly laid down in a paper published in the Edinburgh Caledonian-Mercury of the 30th day of March, 1767.

IT is there said, *1mo.* That by the best information which the nature of the thing would admit of, 10,000 Tuns were the utmost amount of the goods brought at present, by Land-carriage, from Borrowstounness, Alloa, Carron, &c. to Glasgow and from Glasgow to these places. *2do.* That $\frac{2}{3}$ of the whole, was brought to, or sent from Glasgow. *3tio.* That of these 9,000 Tuns for the account of Glasgow, 6,000 Tuns nearly consisted in grain brought to Glasgow for the consumption of that city, and the neighbourhood. *4to.* That although within these ten years, the quantity of wheat grown in the neighbourhood of Glasgow was not equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the consumption; yet now, the quantity raised, is equal, or nearly equal, to what is consumed: and in confirmation of this fact, it is said, that wheat is now cheaper in Glasgow than in any part of Great Britain. *5to.* That the lock duty by the Canal was to be Two-pence per Tun for every mile. *6to.* That the car-

riage, by land, from Carron to Glasgow, upon the average of summer and winter, was Twenty Shillings per Tun, or 10,000*l.* for the 10,000 Tuns; whereas by the Canal, the total quantity would be transported for 3,000*l.*; which makes for the carriage of one Tun only Six Shillings; of which for lock money for twenty-eight miles, Four Shillings and Eight-pence; remains for freight and other charges, One Shilling and Four-pence per Tun.

FROM these facts laid down by the merchants, we must conclude; That their principal motive for undertaking the Canal, was to supply the market of Glasgow with grain, at a more easy rate, and with greater certainty, than at present.

THEY have likewise informed us of the quantity of grain at present found to be deficient; *viz.* 6000 Tuns, or 6000 Chalders.

WE may therefore conclude, That whenever the Canal is compleated, this quantity, at least, and more, in case the consumption shall augment, will, with the greatest ease, be brought to the Glasgow market.

AT present, this deficiency is supplied by the corn dealers, who buy it up at Carron, Borrowstounness, and in the eastern counties of Scotland; because no person, either a grower or a shipmaster, can be supposed to transport grain to Glasgow on their own

account, while they are obliged to unload the goods at Carron and Borrowstounness, to be from thence transported to market by Land-carriage. But so soon as a Canal of such large dimensions as that now carrying on, shall be executed; it is very probable, that many sea-faring men, as well as corn dealers, all over Scotland, may make a trade of supplying that market without the intervention of any one upon the spot: in which case, there is little doubt but the Glasgow corn-trade will soon fall into more hands than at present, and consequently prices there will be brought nearer to the general average of the markets, at Edinburgh, and other places on the east coast.

As I am here considering the particular Interest of the County of Lanark, it would be superfluous to enter into a long discussion of the innumerable advantages of this Canal, to the Trade of the whole united kingdom. I shall confine myself to what concerns the Interest of one small body, *viz.* The County of which Glasgow is the capital, as to wealth; tho' not in political precedence.

I said at setting out, that every change of circumstances, demands a corresponding change of conduct. While Glasgow was at a loss for 'Subsistence, the Landed Interest of this County enjoyed, undoubtedly higher prices for their grain, than they can with reason expect, when the market they depend on, is

laid open by a communication by water to all the eastern coasts of the island. The corn-dealers, also, who supplied the deficiency, shared equally in this advantage. But there is no reason to fear from the execution of the Canal, that immediately all prices are to be brought so low as to ruin Agriculture; as some, I know, are too rashly led to believe. Let the communication by the Canal be ever so easy, the town of Glasgow never can be supplied at so cheap a rate, as every market nearer the counties which are to supply the demand. The market of Edinburgh, and every market on the east coast of Scotland, will have Subsistence cheaper than it can possibly be afforded at Glasgow, when brought through the Canal.

WE see by the 6th article of the paper of the 30th March above-mentioned, That the difference between bringing grain by land, and bringing it by the Canal, is reckoned at Fourteen Shillings per Tun. This diminution of the expence of carriage by the Canal, does not amount, in the price of one peck of meal, to quite Three Farthings; nay, not even to Eight Pennies Scots, as we reckon. This can be no great discouragement to our farmers, as long as we have tolerable prices, and a ready sale. The inferior quality of water-born meal, will not be compensated by so small a difference in the price.

BUT the grand object of the Landed Interest at present should be, to exert their utmost endeavours, to supply the markets themselves; and to circumscribe this new *foreign* supply (as I may call it) within the smallest limits possible. The larger the supply by the Canal is found to be, the more will the market be frequented by strangers; and the greater will be the magazines formed by merchants for the Subsistence of the city.

THESE magazines will be filling from the end of harvest until the month of May: that is, during a season when every access to Glasgow from this County, is quite cut off by the dismal situation of our roads. When our seed-time is over, and our roads are become chard; then the great Meal-trade of our farmers commonly begins. Some are pressed for money to pay their Whitsunday rents, and all are disposed to profit of the summer for the conveyance of their grain. But so soon as a large quantity of water-born grain is collected at Glasgow, the County provision will no sooner begin to arrive, than the proprietors of the first will find it their Interest to lower their price, (were it even below prime cost) from the certainty they will have, of very soon obliging the farmer to dispose of his crop at the same rate.

THE great difference, therefore, in our situation at present, and after the Canal is made, consists in

this: That now the supply of 6,000 Chalders, which the County cannot furnish, and which the town of Glasgow brings from Carron, &c. being to be transported by land, requires the whole year, and particularly the summer, for that purpose. This brings the County farmers more upon a level as to transportation. But if we suppose the Canal to be finished; the facility with which the provision will be made, will enable the corn-dealers of Glasgow, to put in practice the artifice I have mentioned, and many more, which I have not knowledge sufficient in their Trade to discover.

I must now set before the reader some further particulars relating to the Glasgow market.

THE great article of Subsistence: for the people of Glasgow, and neighbourhood to the west, consists of oat-meal. Of this there are three sorts brought to market. The first (and by very far the most considerable, both for quantity, and goodness) is the Cambusnethan meal; so called, because it comes from that parish, where three days in the week, it is collected at a market, formerly held at a village called the overtown of Cambusnethan; which, for the convenience of the public, has been by the authority of the gentlemen of the County, transported to a place called Barnhall of Cambusnethan; more conveniently situated on the great road from Glasgow to Carnwath.

IN this market, is collected, the greatest part of the oat-meal, coming from the markets of Kelfo, Peebles, Carnwath, and the parishes adjacent to the market itself: for which reason the whole, when it arrives in the Glasgow market, is called **Cambusnethan meal**.

THE second sort is the **Lothian meal**. Under this denomination is comprehended all that comes by the Frith of Forth, and from the counties of Stirling, Linlithgow, &c. Of this the quantity brought has been estimated at 6,000 Chalders per *annum*, as has been said.

THE last sort is called **country meal**, which is produced from the lands about Glasgow.

I shall now explain the method of transporting the first sort, *viz.* the **Cambusnethan meal** to the market of Glasgow. This I have said is by far the greatest, as well as the best article of Subsistence.

THIS meal is sold at Barnhall of Cambusnethan by the load, containing Thirty-three pecks Lanark weight, and the expence of winter-transportation on horses is as follows, *Viz.*

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From Peebles to Carnwath per Load,	0	1	8
From Carnwath to Barnhall of Cambusnethan, - - - - -	0	1	2

From Barnhall of Cabusnethan to

Glasgow, - - - - - 0 1 8

Transportation in all, from Peebles to

Glasgow, being Thirty-three com-

puted, or Fifty measured Miles. 0 4 6

THIS load is $\frac{1}{4}$ of a Chalder or Tun, so the transportation of one Tun comes at this rate to Thirty Six Shillings for Fifty measured miles, which is about Eight-pence Halfpenny per mile of measure.

THIS is the winter price, when roads are terrible, especially in the lower part of the County, until they join the turnpike road, and nothing can set this difference in so strong a light, as that the summer price of meal-carriage, is at most but one half of the winter price: and altho' a horse has difficulty enough to carry a load of meal to market in that season; yet a cart in summer, with the same horse, will easily go through with three loads; and some transport even four loads, or half a Tun weight, when the distance does not exceed Twelve or Fifteen measured miles.

BUT let us suppose upon the average in summer (or with hard roads, for good they cannot be called) the carriage of a Tun weight to be Four-pence One Farthing per mile, how cheap is not this land-transportation; when compared to that between

Glasgow and Carron, which costs Twenty Shillings per Tun for Twenty-eight measured miles, or about Eight-pence halfpenny the Tun per mile upon the average of summer and winter.

HAD this County the advantage of roads, the communication by the Canal, would have every advantage in supplying Glasgow with what the country round could not furnish; but never could, from the cheapness of the carriage, over-balance the superior good quality of Land-carried Subsistence.

OUR Land-carriage in summer, we see, costs but Four-pence One Farthing the Tun per mile; that by the Canal we have seen is Six Shillings per Tun for Twenty-eight miles, or about Two-pence halfpenny per mile: so the difference is One Penny Three Farthings per Tun saved per mile, for Twenty-eight miles only, in all Four Shillings and One Penny per Tun or Chalder, which is not One Farthing upon the peck of meal. This, I say, on the supposition of our having roads, is all the saving which can result from the Canal in point of transportation; to compensate the loss the commodity sustains from the Water-carriage. But besides this, we must consider, that the expence of the Land-carriage, is well ascertained from long experience; whereas the other, is only guessed at, from a computation, which upon trial may be found greatly too low.

ANOTHER inconvenience, which many people in this County dread, from the execution of the Canal, is the carrying off a number of our day Labourers, and country Servants, which will have the effect of greatly raising the price of labour.

THAT it may have the effect of raising the price of daily labour, in some cases, I shall not deny. The lowest rate of it, at present, I have said to be Seven pence per day in winter, and Eight-pence in summer: but then it has been observed, that Ten-pence is very commonly given in summer, and that those who work by the piece can gain One Shilling even in the winter. The utmost then we can dread from the Canal, is, that the common rate of Wages may become in general more determinate and fixed; perhaps it may come to Ten-pence per day; and altho' it does, I cannot, from that apprehend any loss to the country. We find that in all countries, and at all times, the excessive lowness of the price of country-labour, has been the greatest discouragement to Agriculture.

BUT altho' I have taken it for granted, that the rate of our daily labour may be raised; yet many circumstances may prevent even this revolution in favour of our lowest class of people. All our married people will be tied to us by the connexion of their family. Some of our best hands, indeed, among the youth, may go off. But we must consider,

that this Canal will be undertaken by an estimate of the expence: that the undertakers will have a very great Interest, in keeping Wages low: that many hands will be brought from distant parts of Scotland: that even part of the troops may be employed to carry it on. That for all such people, habitations will be provided, which must reduce the price of their Wages: a consideration which will not weigh with those who have habitations with us, which they must pay for, whether absent or present. But further, Can it be expected that such an additional number of hands, can be brought, all at once, into this County, for making the Canal, without raising the Price of Subsistence above the common rate? Shall we not then find a better vent for every thing we have to dispose of? And in the last place will it not be an advantage, to have the dexterity of all our young people improved, by such an apprenticeship? And will not their return to us, inspire every one of their order, with an emulation in a dexterity which may bring them better Wages. Every one, I am sure, who knows any thing of day labour in the Country, must agree that some hands are better worth One Shilling per day, than others are worth Eight-pence.

LET us therefore allow, that some of our best hands will be carried off. I say the inconvenience will be of short duration, a year or two perhaps. We shall soon resolve to buy them back again; and

we shall gain by the bargain. And if in the mean time the execution of the Canal shall raise the expence of our farming, the consumption implied by it, or occasioned by it, will indemnify us in the sale of its product.

I shall carry my speculations, upon the consequences of making the Canal no further at present; but shall pass to another subject, *viz.* The Roads of this County.

IF the city of Glasgow found it for their advantage, to be at the expence of 40,000*l.* Sterling, in order to save Six-pence per Tun per mile, for Twenty-eight miles carriage, of 10,000 Tuns; what should not that city find it their Interest to give, in order to save Four-pence One Farthing per Tun per mile, for fifty miles, upon all the Subsistence coming to her from her own neighbourhood?

WHAT also should the Landed Interest give, for procuring a saving of Four-pence One Farthing per Tun per mile, upon the transportation of all grain, and many other articles, not only sent to Glasgow; but conveyed over all the capital roads in the County? Is not a saving on the carriage, equal to a rise upon the price of goods sold; or a diminution on those which are bought, in every respect? But in this case, what a number of evil consequences do not proceed from the uncertainty of our roads! Are not

all those, who live by driving with carts and horses, thereby made absolutely idle, for at least one half of the year? In that situation, how can they afford to pay a tolerable rent for their land; when that rent must be paid by the price of carriages? Further, in a County where the generality of farmers are so very poor, how can the extended tracks of bare Land be improved, but by subdividing them into small lots, of about Ten, Fifteen or Twenty acres, and letting them to those who make their livelihood by driving coals, lime, meal, grain and other things for hire? It is evident that so small a portion of land, is no way sufficient to enable the possessors to maintain themselves, and pay their rents out of the product. The Land will contribute towards maintaining themselves and horses, their industry must support their family and pay the rent.

WE are now supposing that the price of carriage in summer is one half only, of what is paid in winter: but we have said, that the same horse, which carries, in winter, one load on his back, will carry three upon a cart in summer: here then is one third gained to the carrier, for tear and wear of his cart, and all accidents from deep roads are prevented.

WERE proper roads made through all the County, what a difference would it not produce, in point of carriage, both in lowering the price at market, and profits to the transporter! Such profits must constant-

ly be shared, by every one who has an Interest in the operation.

WHAT a difference would it not make in the rent of farms, now at a distance from any public road! Are we not all envying the good fortune of those whose property will lie on the side of this New Canal? What a disproportion is there not between 150,000*l.* which this Canal will cost, (as it is said) and the expence of making a *set* of roads for the County of Larnark with a communication so far as Peebles! What a disproportion, on the other hand, between the extent of the course of this Canal, with the course of such a *set* of roads, and what a small difference does there not appear to be between the price of the summer-carriage, as it now in fact stands in the County; and the carriage upon the Canal! Not Two-pence a Tun per mile. Yet by this carriage, cheap as it is, do numbers of our small tenants subsist, tho' their horses are made idle more than one half of the year, from the badness of the roads,

BUT it is said; that the merchants of Glasgow, when they proposed to lay out 40,000*l.* upon a Canal, had views far more extended than the object of 10,000 Tuns carriage. That both they, and the subscribers for the New Canal, are wealthy people, and all in one Interest. That by calculation, they find that the profits on the undertaking will answer the expence; and that money'd people, lay hold

of every opportunity to employ their stock, upon a certainty of drawing a good Interest for it. That this Interest is secured to them, by the Toils upon the Canal at Two-pence a mile per Tun. That no road can bear a Toll in any proportion to this. That the advantage of roads would indeed be felt by the community in general; but this advantage cannot be made over proportionally to those who must be at the first expence. Further, that altho' many public roads may be executed with profit to the undertakers, at the rate of Toll-money usually imposed; yet in a County like this, where roads to all quarters are absolutely necessary, in order to compass the end proposed; the number of passengers is so small, that any Toll, which could be raised, would be very inadequate to the expence of the undertaking. That the principal advantage, arising from the execution of such a plan, will accrue to the Landed Interest, from the great rise of their rents; which such an improvement will necessarily occasion: but that such advantages, are distant objects, not easily perceived by the generality of men, who for the greatest part have little knowledge of each other, and who cannot be brought to agree in matters of far less consequence.

THE solidity and weight of these objections, every person must perceive at the first view. And

there is but one argument which I can find sufficient to remove them, viz. *It is your Interest.*

WERE it possible to convince the Landed Interest of this County, that any expence they could lay out, in making roads, would be infinitely more than compensated, by the rise of their rents, in consequence of the execution of the plan: were they, I say, convinced of this truth; I have no more difficulty in believing that they would immediately concur in the undertaking, than I have in believing, that they would all wish to borrow money at Five per Cent, in order to buy Land at Fifteen years purchase.

THE principal object I had in view, when I took my pen on this occasion, was to throw light upon this particular question. It was for this purpose I introduced the subject, and traced the consequences of this new undertaking of the Canal. I have pointed out what *may* be the consequences of a large supply of Subsistence, being collected in Glasgow, by that means. I have shewed how the precarious supply from our farmers, may be reduced to a great undervalue, by the artifices of Trading-men, all in one Interest; who, at short intervals, may undersell them. I have shewed, how small will be the difference, between the carriage of meal brought by the Canal, and that brought upon our own roads, bad as they are, even in the summer season. I have

shewn how a diminution of the expence on the carriage of goods to be sold, is, in reality, an augmentation upon the price to the seller; or a diminution to the buyer; which they share. If all these considerations, can move the Landed Interest of this County, to wish to have roads at their own expence, since there is little expectation of obtaining them in any other manner; it will then be proper to lay a plan before them, for that purpose. To do it, before the necessity appears in all its force, would only alarm them, and add an additional weight to every argument which can be brought against the undertaking.

Now is the time toward off the blow. The making of this Canal will be a work of many years, at any rate; and during that period, the Landed Interest will have time sufficient to consult upon a matter of so great moment; and who knows but even these considerations, trifling as they are, may suggest better thoughts to men of superior parts and knowledge.

I COME now to the last branch of my subject; *viz.* The Policy and Practice observed in our Markets for Subsistence.

I SHALL not here pretend, minutely to criticize the general system established in the city of Glasgow. That there are many defects in their policy, con-

cerning such markets, every one, both in the magistracy and out of it, is, I believe, sufficiently convinced of; and were it as easy to remove an abuse, as it is to point it out, many of them would have been long ago corrected.

THE general principal to be attended to, in the policy of markets for Subsistence, is *To lay them open to every person in the country, who has any article to provide.*

TOWNS and cities furnish little or no Subsistence from within themselves, and every privilege granted to Butchers, Bakers, Poulterers, Herb-merchants, &c. which, by experience is found to cramp and clog the ready supply from the country, serves only to remove the consumer one step further from the first furnisher; to constitute monopolies, in favour of particular citizens; and to enhance the price of living to all the inhabitants.

IT would be far better, could all such markets be laid entirely open to the country, and were government to indemnify the community, by a small excise laid on the consumption made by the citizens, than to expose the body of the inhabitants, to the extortion of those of their number; who, on pretext of corporation privileges, make rich by feeding them at second hand.

I would not here be understood to level a proscription against all subaltern corporations within towns. Such citizens, who, by their industry in Trades, supply the wants of the community, in their buildings, clothes, furniture, equipage, utensils, &c. (where the trifling worth of the first matter, is, by their ingenuity wrought up to a considerable value;) should never be exposed to the rivalry of others, who live cheap in the country, and bear no burden within the corporation. But the expence of preparing Subsistence, is a mere trifle, when compared with the value of the first matter, which consists in animal and vegetable food. The sale of such productions, ought therefore, to be free to all, whose care it is to produce them, for the use of those who are shut up within the precincts of towns and cities; and the furnishers should be allowed to bring such articles to market, in the form which they find most advantageous to themselves, and best adapted to the convenience of the consumer. Thus in place of allowing corn and cattle only, to be brought to market; it should be laid open to flour, meal, carcasses, fowl, &c. and the several markets for these articles, should be so situated, as both to answer the convenience of the inhabitants, and of those, who, frequently on the same carriage, supply many promiscuous articles from the country.

WHEN this trifling precaution is neglected, many small articles are brought by country carriers on-

ly. These have their correspondents in the town, who make a monopoly there; as the carriers do with the Country farmers, which altogether greatly raises the price, and discourages the farmers from furnishing such articles to the market.

It may be alledged, that bread also, should be freely sold at market. To which I answer, That tho' corn, meal, and flour, may be allowed to be sold in city markets, since they are productions of the country only; yet since bread-making is a Manufacture, or at least a Trade, the corporation-privileges of Bakers should be preserved, upon the principle already laid down: but since in so great an article as bread, an exclusive privilege to make it, may be found, from the frauds committed, to be very inconvenient; it may perhaps be expedient to erect public ovens, where every one, who can make his own bread at home, may at a small expence have it fired or toasted by the public.

SUCH ovens will raise a considerable branch of revenue, and every one will be better served. They will also prove an expedient for keeping Bakers to their duty, and become a great relief to those who consume wheat, as well as an encouragement to prefer to oat meal, that useful and profitable article of Subsistence.

WHEN once the cheapness of provisions, becomes an object of general and hearty concern, many are the expedients to be fallen upon, to support the price of the first matter, in favour of Agriculture; and still to bring food to the consumer at a reasonable rate.

I suppose I need not here observe, that all alterations of policy, in such important concerns, must be brought about by very slow degrees, and must be conducted by a skilful hand.

I have already said, that, at present, the principal article of vegetable subsistence in the Glasgow market is oat-meal; and altho' a very large quantity of this be brought from the Lothian side, the greatest part by far, is still the product of this County.

THE meal market, is regulated exactly on the principles I have been laying down. It is open to the country at all times, and the only reformation I have to propose, is in order to obviate the inconveniencies which arise from this very policy.

THE rents of Lands in this County, are generally paid in money; consequently the most considerable proprietors themselves, are at no time possessed of any great quantity of meal or corn, collected into granaries; which granaries, in Counties, such as east Lothian, and others in the north, contribute

greatly to regulate the price of markets through the the whole year ; except when a demand for exportation happens to disturb it ; a circumstance hitherto unknown in the County of Lanark.

THIS being the case with us, every farmer, great and small, must carry his meal to market, in proportion as he can have his crop threshed out, and sent to the mill. This operation goes on from harvest to seed-time, while our roads to Glasgow are at the worst, and while the landlords are most pressing to call in their rents.

THERE is still another circumstance which distresses our poor farmers.

THEY feed their cattle in winter, almost entirely with straw ; and the advantage of having it new threshed, prevents them from having any considerable quantity of corn, ready for the Glasgow market, before the arrival of the Lothian meal. Their houses also, are so bad, that could they afford to feed with hay, and throw their straw into their yard for litter to their cattle, they cannot preserve any large quantity of corn and meal, without losing more by waste and vermin, than what they suffer from their present management.

To these discouragements under which the farmer labours, add, That the licentiousness of the

commons who live in towns; and who are instructed, by example, to consider riot and disorder as very noble exertions of liberty; deter the merchant from embarking in the corn-trade. The consequence of all which is, That the market of Glasgow, in what regards Cambusnethan meal, is supplied from day to day. If the roads are made impracticable by storms in winter; if the operations in the country, during seed-time and harvest, prevent the farmers from threshing out; if the Glasgow market takes a sudden fall, from an uncommon supply at a particular season; the consequence is a stagnation from the upper part of the County, which either cannot, or will not carry meal to market on such occasions.

FROM these and like circumstances, the price of meal is immediately raised, which distresses the Manufacturer, without availing the farmer or meal-driver. It distresses the Manufacturer; because he cannot provide against, or foresee such augmentations on the Price of his Subsistence: it is no advantage to the farmer; because, from what has been said, we perceive, that he cannot profit of a sudden rise of the market; and the sudden fall destroys the poor meal-driver, who commonly sells for his own account, what he has bought on credit at the Cambusnethan market, upon which a very small loss at Glasgow, puts it out of his power ever to repay the price.

THE number of people, all over this County, who have been ruined by a sudden fall in the Glasgow market, do abundantly prove the truth of what is here laid before the reader.

FURTHER, would any one believe, that in the city of Glasgow, there is not one person in Trade, who ever commissions one boll of meal in any parish, or in any market within this County. All the County can furnish, is brought to Glasgow by the poorest class (I may say in general) of our country inhabitants; and that not so frequently by way of carriers, as upon their own account. How precarious a market for the farmers is that of Cambusnethan; how precarious a supply for the city is what it draws from thence! add to this; that in Glasgow I know of no merchant, who thinks it worth his while, to receive into a magazine, or to buy up for his own account, what may on a particular market-day be brought to town beyond the common rate of consumption: consequently the smallest redundancy of the supply, occasions a fall; the smallest short-coming occasions a rise of prices.

AFTER so long an enumeration of inconveniences, it may be expected that some remedy for them should be proposed: but to one who will attend to the nature of them, the vice will be found so closely combined with the actual situation of the farmer, who can at no time command any considerable part

of his crop; with that of the miserable merchant-meal-drivers, who have neither credit, or carriages sufficient at their command; with the dismal situation of all the roads; and in the last place, with the situation of the Trading-men, who, from the constant revolutions in the prices at market, and the danger of being plundered in case they should launch out in the Meal-trade, dare not lend their assistance: the vice complained of, will, I say, be found so closely combined with the circumstances and situation of those who must supply the market, that any remedy which can be applied, must work its effect by the steady administration of the magistracy, and by length of time alone.

DIFFICULT, however, as the execution of a plan for reformation in this part may prove, we still may point out the principle on which it must proceed.

THE point to be accomplished, is to fix, or at least to render more steady, the price of vegetable Subsistence, in proportion to the plenty of every year; and to secure to the merchant, who shall lend his assistance in gathering the provision together, a reasonable and certain benefice. This every wise man in Trade, will prefer to the highest precarious profits.

Now the situation of Glasgow, which annually requires a very considerable supply from distant parts of the kingdom, seems to promise success in so great and so beneficial an undertaking.

So soon as the Canal is finished, every part of what now passes under the denomination of Lothian meal, will arrive at Glasgow, nearly at the same price to the merchant there; because considerable quantities of it, must pass before the markets of Edinburgh, and other towns on the East coast, before it can reach Glasgow. This will raise the price of it, to the highest standard of all the markets nearer to the furnishing counties. If we therefore suppose, this quantity to amount to Six Thousand Chalders, is it not very certain, that the price of so large a provision, *may* be made to regulate that part which the County is to supply to the Glasgow market, where it is not affected by exportation, and where, I hope, it will not soon be exposed to such a destructive revolution, as we have felt of late by the importation from Ireland?

If it be then allowed, that the price of Six Thousand Chalders of Lothian meal, will regulate the price of all the rest, may not a company of merchants be formed, who will take this branch of Trade into their hands; and when this first step is made, and the Price at which the meal can be sold for, with profit to the importers is ascertained;

may not the company erect a sort of Meal-bank, in the manner I shall now explain.

THE market, in winter, is frequently unprovided with Cambusnethan meal, for the reasons already mentioned; prices immediately rise; and, as matters stand, those who have collected any quantity of Lothian meal in town, may profit of the rise, and bring it to market. Now in place of this precarious profit, so hurtful to all the industrious classes, might not the company find it their Interest, on such occasions, rather to supply the markets, by issuing out of their meal stock, not on their own account, but by commission for all the substantial farmers of the County; who, on such occasions, wish for nothing so much, as to supply the market, were it in their power. They will therefore, pay with great chearfulness, a very reasonable commission to the bank, for this advance of meal; and they will be constantly replacing to it, the quantity advanced. At the same time the city, by giving notice of the rate of the market from day to day, such farmers as are willing to sell at the lowest rate, may constantly be preferred by the bank, who will regulate the premium for their advance, by the price of their own provision, and not by the fluctuations of the market.

THIS premium, will, I apprehend, abundantly indemnify the company, for giving up the unpopular,

and precarious profit, they now make, by availing themselves of the public distress, and selling what they have ready, on their own account.

THIS bank, in time, will take many new forms; and will extend its influence beyond the limits of the County. The proprietors may then enlarge their stock, in proportion to circumstances; and this stock will constantly be renewing, by the circulation of the market; and will produce, from the premiums, a profit sufficient to defray all charges.

ANOTHER advantage attending this plan is, that it easily admits of an experiment. Any person provided with any quantity of meal in Glasgow, may make a trial of this Trade when he pleases; and he may give it up when he finds it does not answer. He may stipulate with the farmers, that the advance shall be replaced in six weeks, or two months, for example, which will enable him, with One Hundred bolls, to supply the market with Six or Eight Hundred in the course of a year; upon all which, he will receive his premium, and the market will be kept steady, by the general competition among all the farmers who wish to sell, when they cannot transport to market.

THIS is a very rude sketch, of the idea of a Meal-bank, which (if ever it be thought worthwhile to adopt it,) will, in the hands of merchants, be soon

polished up, and fitted for execution. But that I may here do what I can to make it intelligible, I shall offer the following illustration from an example.

SUPPOSE then, that early in this season, while the price of meal was very high, and the markets indifferently supplied; the magistrates of Glasgow, had bought very dear, some Hundred bolls of meal, for the sake of the inhabitants. The Irish importation beginning, this provision must have been locked up from the market, or sold at a very great discount. Might not then the city in such circumstances, have made an offer to the farmers of the shire, to issue of this meal on their account, at the price they were willing to sell their own. Many one would have more willingly accepted of this offer, than run the risk as they did, of sending it to the Cambusnethan market, where sometimes there was no demand, and at other times dealers of very indifferent credit to take it off their hand.

By this method, the city-meal would have been renewing at least, and the premium got would have been some indemnity for the first advance; whereas by lying in a granary, it might corrupt, and be totally lost.

IF the notion of a Meal-bank (which indeed would greatly hurt the County markets) be found imprac-

licable, the next best improvement, is for the city of Glasgow, to turn their attention to these County markets; and to take such steps, in conjunction with the Landed Interest, as may promote the regularity and good Policy of them; in order, first to draw as much meal together as possible, and then to provide a ready out-let, or a repository in Glasgow, for the superfluity, which occasionally may arrive; and which, as matters stand, frequently gluts the market of Glasgow, and occasions a sudden fall of prices, which occasions a sudden desertion of it, followed by a rise equally sudden and hurtful to the consumer.

FURTHER, the market of Glasgow, ought in good policy, to be the center for circulating to the more western parts of Scotland, the whole produce of this County superfluous to its own consumption: and some defects in the method of taking the duty called the *ladle*, do, as I am informed, occasion an obstruction in this particular.

THIS duty, I believe, was originally fixed to one half peck of meal, taken from every load. But it is now converted, for the convenience of parties (and it is no doubt an improvement) to the value of one half peck of meal, rated at One Penny Sterling, below the highest price. Thus if the highest price be Nine-pence per peck, the *ladle* is Four-pence per load. Now this is plainly in-

tended to affect the consumer in the city of Glasgow only; and therefore such meal as is sold in the market, for the use of other places to the West, should be entitled to a draw-back of this duty upon going out of town; and if carried through the city without coming to market, it may be entitled to none. This will bring a larger quantity to market: but when the draw-back is refused, the carriers pass by the city altogether, which is a loss to the city, as well as to the market, and an expence to the meal-driver over and above.

WHATSOEVER creates an irregularity in markets, is constantly prejudicial to the consumer; because those who buy in order to sell again, never fail to avail themselves of it.

THE weights at least over all this County, should be regulated by the Lanark standard. I have heard complaints in this particular.

FURTHER, in the County markets, the meal is weighed by the load consisting of Thirty-three pecks Lanark weight; in the Glasgow market, it is weighed by the firlof weight. This occasions a difference, because down weight is expected at every weighing; the meal-driver is sure to avail himself of this difference between buying and selling; the retailer does the same, and the consumer pays for all.

It would be an advantage also should the market-man of Cambusnethan, be ordered to inform the city of Glasgow, of the rate of his market, every market-day. By this, the consumers would be informed, of the true rate of the market, from which they are supplied at all times. This will also *tend* to prevent a sudden rise, so frequently complained of at Glasgow.

SUCH regulations as these, would help to fix the price of markets, by informing the public of what so nearly concerns it: and they are at the same time, consistent with that liberty which is essential to Trade.

It is from the ignorance of magistrates, in what concerns the farmers of their district, that we see the most unconstitutional, and arbitrary proceedings sometimes committed with regard to those who supply the markets. Nay, such orders I have even seen inserted in news-papers, as might induce an ignorant farmer, to believe, that city-magistrates have a right to call in his grain to market, and there to limit the price of it, as oft as their own unskilful administration may occasion a scarcity.

FROM the ignorance, also, which generally prevails among the bulk of the people, concerning the corn-trade, is the populace so frequently blown up into a ferment against all corn-dealers, for the forestalling, regrating, and engrossing of that commo-

dity. Did they know the waste and expence attending such practices, they would soon see their mistake, and learn to attribute the distress they feel, to the general want of Policy in all our Corn-markets; which want of policy, again, is in a great measure, owing to their own turbulent disposition. But as such abuses are not peculiar to the County of Lanark, I shall not here insist upon them.

I shall now conclude, by recommending to the Landed Interest of this County, and to the Trading-Interest of the city of Glasgow, more carefully to examine the present state of their affairs, than hitherto they seem to have done; to banish little party animosities; to live more together; and to turn their joint attention to such objects only, as really deserve it.

F I N I S.

ERRATA

- Page 4 line 16, for 311a. read 311b.
- p. 12. l. 22. for coarser r. coarser.
- p. 29 l. 11. for lome. r. lome.
- p. 38 l. 1. for ease. r. ease.
- p. 39 l. 1. for whether. r. whether.
- p. 43 l. 15. for
- p. 60 l. 6. for principal r. principle.
- p. 63 l. 10. for vegetable r. vegetable.
- do. penult dele ?



